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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Last month I was thrilled to finally be able to switch to Sonic.net from Xfinity/Comcast. In my time living in the East Bay of California I have enjoyed greater access to ISP options than most, since this is a tech-heavy area. Yet even here a majority of options rely on AT&T as a backbone carrier, which includes a large number of security and privacy concerns. Not only that but AT&T and Comcast both have failed to innovate, particularly in the areas of upload speed, and user privacy. Sonic.net has been working on build-out of genuinely modern, bi-directional, gigabit service at a fair price to the consumer, and at great expense to themselves. But they are investing in the future. AT&T is, by and large, not, and neither is Comcast. Where improved service packages are available from either provider, it is clearly in response to what competitors like Sonic.net and Monkeybrains have provided, rather than true innovation or intent to serve the customer. AT&T and Comcast fear **losing** customers, while Sonic.net and other smaller companies are trying to **gain** customers. This is the essence of healthy competition and, as Sonic.net's gigabit fiber built-out proves, even a small company can make a big difference in access to technology for consumers. Not only that but they do not fund these efforts by selling user data or any other underhanded tactic. Sonic.net has have the one of the best privacy and security records of any ISP. They have achieved all this despite the local monopoly AT&T has had on phone service, and Comcast has had on cable service, for decades.

Competition is vital, valuable, and necessary for the preservation of consumer choice, access, and rights.

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